

CLEAN WATER COUNCIL

Meeting Highlights

February 8, 2000

Location

N.J. Environmental Infrastructure Trust, 3131 Princeton Pike, Lawrenceville

Attendees

See attached attendance list.

Highlights Summary

Direction of the Clean Water Council for 2000

1. Formation of the three (3) subcommittee groups – Headwaters, NPS and TMDL

These subcommittee groups were formed and have started to run. Tom Baxter has done a good job at getting the Headwaters group up and running. We are still trying to get members of the CWC to participate in the NPS and TMDL groups.

More information is provided in the Statewide Watershed Advisory Subcommittee section.

This is the direction that the CWC is going to take. If you think that the Council should not be moving in this direction, please let Pat Matarazzo know.

2. Legislation

Dealing with Legislation has been sticky in the past. The Department only receives notice that a bill is scheduled to be heard about three to seven days prior to the hearing. This type of schedule will not allow the Department enough time to send it to the Council for review.

It was suggested that the Council members try to pay attention to legislation based on their own individual interest and bring anything that may be of interest to the Council.

3. Drought Issues

The Department's focus has shifted. The Department has been working with USGS. A task force was formed with a set of priorities.

Issues dealing with the drought were not brought to the attention of the CWC. It should be a standard practice to advise the CWC that these things are going on involving clean water.

It was agreed that instead of expanding the focus of the Council, we would move in the direction of the three subgroups: Headwaters, NPS and TMDL.

The agenda for future meetings was suggested to follow this format:

- 20 minutes - Legislation/Hot Topics
- 60 minutes - Three Subgroups
- 20 minutes - Recommendation Discussions

Public Hearing Discussion

Attendance

A lot of good ideas were put out there, but the Council still did not get people to attend. Apathy is an issue.

Publicity

The mailing for the hearing was distributed a part of a mass mailing from Rutgers. Even though CWC was evident, the Rutgers logo was first. Perhaps that was part of the problem. Only the invitations to the Mayors were sent in the bottles, with no effectiveness.

Timing

It was suggested that the Council hold the next hearing on a Saturday or in the evening in order to get better participation. The hearing has to gain the interest of individuals, held at a time that would be convenient for them and the location is also an important factor.

There were 27 categories with recommendations that were shared with the Council. The Council needs to decide which ones to send to DEP.

Comments included:

MTBE

- The use of MTBE and its effects on water pollution.
- There is no study on the use of MTBE and the effect it has on the reservoirs.
- CWC will make a recommendation to the Department to eliminate the additive, MTBE, and ask the Department to find another additive. Lou Neely will draft a recommendation to the Department from the Council. A draft is attached.

Enforcement

- Lack of enforcement of DEP standards
- We are not enforcing what we have so why do we what to start something new if we can't enforce what we have. The public does not know what is going on. It may be an apathy issue – how do we get people involved. It is not the Council's responsibility to keep the public informed. The charge of the CWC is to advise the Department based on the feedback from the hearing.

Information

- Information and sources of answers for the public
 - Expand the Department's Easy Access Booklet – Make the booklet available on the Department's web page.
 - Produce a citizen's handbook on commonly asked questions.
 - Ask the Department to take responsibility for calls they receive. Don't refer callers to other programs. Find out the information for the caller. Better "customer service" is needed.
 - Will the Council formulate a recommendation on information and customer service?

Surface Water Quality Standards

- Make a recommendation to the Department that the Surface Water Quality Standard be proposed as soon as possible.

Other

- There have also been numerous requests for copies of the transcript from the hearing. It was suggested that the Department create a link to the CWC on their web page and provide a copy of the transcript and the Council's response to those comments on the web page.
- Pat Matarazzo will attend a Clean Air Council meeting on February 9th to try to build a partnership with them and the CWC. We need to find out if there is a common ground for the Clean Water Council and the Clear Air Council with regard to the reformulated gasoline

Action

Pat Matarazzo suggested that everyone take another look at the transcript from the hearing and send any other suggestions to Mary Sue Topper for discussion the next CWC meeting.

**STATEWIDE WATERSHED MANAGEMENT
ADVISORY COUNCIL
Meeting Highlights
February 8, 2000**

Location

N.J. Environmental Infrastructure Trust, 3131 Princeton Pike, Lawrenceville

Attendees

See attached attendance list.

Highlights Summary

Direction of the Division of Watershed Management

Lance Miller, Director of the Division of Watershed Management provided the Subcommittee with an overview of the direction of Watershed Management in New Jersey. A copy of Lance's presentation is attached.

Internal changes are continuing. New staff has joined us and partners are learning new ways to deal with the Division.

Tom Baxter said that a strong coalition has been formed in the Raritan. Many of the concerned agencies believe in watershed management. Additional information can be found at raritanbasin.org.

Comments included the thought that DEP has let stakeholders get too involved. DEP has to take more leadership. Give the stakeholders examples of mission statements in order to get the process rolling.

Headwaters Policy

Tom Baxter provided the CWC and the Watershed Management Advisory Subcommittee with an update on the status of the Headwaters Subcommittee. The Headwaters Subcommittee has developed the definition of headwaters, a statement of their importance and they have developed some recommendations for the Council and Watershed Management Advisory Subcommittee to consider. A copy of the report is attached.

The Council and Watershed Management Advisory Subcommittee will discuss the recommendations from the Headwaters Subcommittee and the March 14th meeting.

NPS and TMDL Subcommittees

It was agreed that the NPS and the TMDL Subcommittees would be combined into one group. The first thing the Subcommittee should do is take a look at DEP's document on the TMDL process to see if the Department is moving in the right direction. A presentation on the Whippany Lessons Learned may also be helpful to the group.

The NPS/TMDL Subcommittee will need to evaluate the different entities that will be dealing with this problem and address the issue of who is going to pay for reductions. They will also need to investigate whether the legislative body is ready to address these issues through the creation of a Stormwater Utility. Pat, Joe and Pam will work together to investigate this issue.

Dave Baker volunteered to be a Co-Chair of the NPS/TMDL Subcommittee. Pat Matarazzo will make some calls to the other members to see if he can get another Co-Chair for the Subcommittee. Diane Alexander, at Pat's request, has volunteered to serve as Co-Chair with Dave. Pat is looking for one more Co-Chair.

Next Steps for NPS/TMDL Subcommittee

- Background information on what went right and what went wrong in the Whippany
- Lessons Learned from the NPS Advisory Committee
- Discussion Items
- What are other states doing in this area?

The May meeting of the CWC will be held at the NJWEA Conference in Atlantic City on May 4th. The Council will meet from 4:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. on that day.